Sector Aflas suggests to him the following text:

"Thou shall not vex a stranger, nor oppress him;
"for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."

RUNORED RESIGNATION. - The Herald states that it has transpired at Washington that A. Dudley Mann has resigned his position as Assistant S-cretary of grate, to take effect any time before the first of March. It is understood his resignation grows out of th Soulé affair, the Ostand Con'arence, and the changed policy of the Administration as regards Cuba.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP UNION .- The steam ship Union. Capt. Adams, from Havre Jan. 17, via Southampton 18th, arrived at this port on Saturday night. She brings no later news—the advices by the Africa, which arrived at Boston on Tauraday last, being to the 20th. The U. brings a large freight list and 22 passergers, a list of whose names will be found under the appropriate head.

THE LATEST NEWS. RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 1855.

Lieut Robert E. Johnson, of the Navy, died today near Wilmington, Delaware. He was the nephew
of Joseph Gales, Esq., and Mrs. W. W. Seaton, of
the city, and was an active officer in the Wilkes Ex-

ploring Expedition.

The President and his private Secretary attended the funeral of Ex-Mayor Maury to-day, and also that of Auditor Pleasenton.

Mr. Wise's speech at Alexandria last night is substantially the same as that recently delivered by him at Petersburgh, and which has already been published to the New York papers.

at Petersburgs, and white in the New York papers.

The Metropolitica Meshanics' Institute Exhibition, epening on Thurday next, is overflowing with goods more elegant and numerous than at any previous success ful subibition. The time for the reception of committing goods, has been extended to Monday, and those cos ful exhibition. The time for the reception of com-pting goods, has been extended to Monday, and those for an bition merely, till Wednesday evening. The North has contributed largely in choice specimens of

arisanship.
John B. Miller, of New-York, has been nomidated by the Senate to be Secretary of Legation to Peru, in place of James C. Marriot, resigned.
Collector Redfield, of New York, has never intimated a dear to be rolleved from the duries of his effice, and the rumors to the contrary are false.
The appointment of a successor to Mr. Pleasanton, the fifth Auditor, has been made by the President, but

net units Auditor, the near mose by the President, but not yet apnounced.

Cases for Triel in the U. S. Supreme Court Next Week.—On Monday, No. 60. Carrington vs. Brigg and Pratt. Tuesday, 6th, No. 61. Ship Panther vs. The United States. No. 62. South vs. State of Maryland. Wednesday, 7th, No. 63. Tiernans, Administrator, vs. Eve. Thursday, 8th, No. 64. Arkfritton vs. Woodward.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE NEAR QUEBEC. Mostrata, Saurday, Feb. 3, 1855.

The west wing of the Asylum at Besupres, near Quebec, was entirely destroyed by fire resterday morning. The institution contained nearly two hundred patients, none of whom were injured. The damage is estimated at \$12,500. eb. 3, 1855.

TWO PERSONS DROWNED WHILE SKATING. TWO PERSONS DROWNED WHILE SKATING. PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.

This afterboon, as a party were skating on the Schuylkill River, above Fairmount, the ice gave way, and Earle S. Shinn, a druggist on the corner of Broad and Spruce sta, and Miss Russell, his wife's sister, were drowned. At the time the accident occurred he was ekating alorg, and pushing Miss Russell on a sled. A large crowd were present and saw the accident, but were unable to render assistance in time to save them. The bodies have been recovered.

THE FIRE IN NEW-ORLEANS. NEW ORLEANS, Friday, Feb 2, 1855.
The loss by the fire in this City last night amounted to \$125,000, and is fully covered by insurance.

Bostos, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.

A fire broke out this morning in the furniture manufactory of Joseph L. Ross, in Hawkins at, damaging the building and stock to the amount of \$12,000, Insurance, \$4,000. BURNING OF A CHAIR MANUFACTORY.

WEATHER REPORTS.
CHICAGO, Friday, Feb. 2, 1855.
The weather here continues very cold, but all the railreads are open except the Chicago and Mississippt.
A small portion of the Hilinois Central Road has not, however, been heard from.
CHICAGNATI, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.
The weather here is very cold. Navigation is still superfield. Engines is very dull.

majested. Business is very cold. Navigation is still majested. Business is very dull.

PHTEREMENT, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.

The Ohio River is still closed up here. The weather is very cold. The thermometer stands at 16° above zero.

MONTREAL, Saturday, Feb. 3-9 A. M.

The weather bere is clear and cold.

CALAIS, Me., Friday, Feb. 2—9 A. M.

The weather is moderate and the wind north-east. It commenced snowing early this morning, and the snow is now about three inches deep.

EASTFORT, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A. M.

It is snowing hard here, with a north east wind.

BASGOR, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A. M.

Three inches of snow have fallen here this morning.

PORTLAND, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A. M.

One inch of snow has fallen here. The weather is moderating, and it is now clearing up.

BOSTON, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A. M.

The weather here is moderate. Snow fell for about as hour this morning. The sun is now shining brightly.

ne boar this morning. The sun is now shining brightly.
SPRINGFIELD, Saturday, Feb. 3—1 P. M.
It has been snowing brighly here for the past hour.
The weather is cold.

The weather is cold.

SACKVILLE, (Me.) Saturday, Feb. 3, 1855.

About six inches of snow fell here last night. The weather is clear and cold to-day.

HALLEAN, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A.M.

A heavy snow storm set in here last evening, which lasted during the night. This morning it has the appearance of rain.

Pearance of rain.
Sr. John's, Saturday, Feb. 3—9 A. M.
Roow fell to the depth of three inches last night.
The weather is fine and cold this morning.

XXXIIID CONGRESS. SECOND SESSION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Washington, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1815.

The House passed the thirty-six private bills which

pure considered in Committee yesterday.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE ALBANY, Feb. 3, 1855.

Mr. YOST, by bill, relative to the imprisonment of Minesses in certain cases.

Mr. SPENCER, a minority report, by bill, on same

Amending the act for the more effectual suppression of gambling.

Mr. DICKINSON called up the resolution request-information from the Attorney General with regard callering the locks of the Chemung Canal, and as the right of the State to appropriate the waters of the ming River in furtherance of that object. After debate Mr. PUTNAM moved the resolution

Mr. P. C. Carried.

Mr. WHITNEY called up his resolution of inquiry as to the right of Mr. Dunisp acting as a Commissioner of Emigration.

Mr. BARR wanted to know on what the Senator band his resolution, whether Mr. Dunisp really acted as a Commissioner.

Commissioner.

WHITNEY got his information from the report of Commissioners, wherein he found Mr. Dunisp's

Mr. BARR thought the resolution would do no BARK thought the resolution would do no harm, though be could see no necessity for it. The Governor (Mr. Seymour) had something of the Jackssa stamp about him, and although the Senate rejected the romination of Mr. Dunlap, he may have summed the responsibility of reappointing Mr. D.; and he believed the Governor had a right to do so. Jackson had done so in the case of Mr. Guinn, of Bistaining.

Tr. DICKINSON would like to have the resolution ar. DICKINSON would like to have the resolution had on the table for the present, in order that he wish give it further consideration. Gen. Washington had reappointed a man whom the Senate had rejected. Mr. WHITNEY alluded to Mr. Biunt's removal from the office of Commissioner, and that a resolution laudatory of that gentleman's services had been arguinged from the report of the Commissioners. Mr. and that Gov. Seymour had said to him last windled the control of the Commissioners. Mr. Biunt." Mr. BARR said the reason the resolution was ex-

punged, as explained to him, was that it was lauding a member of their own body, which, on second thought, had appeared to the Board injudicious. So far as the services of Mr. Biunt were concerned, he could not see why they should be praised, and nothing said of the services of the other members of the Board. The expunged resolution said that the gentleman had erected monuments of his valuable services on the island, or something to that effect. Now, all he knew of those monuments was that he had a rected a couple of hen coops on the island, perhaps for the Shans hais.

Mr. SPENCER felt compalled to repel the allusions

for the Shan, bais.

Mr. SPENCER felt compelled to repel the allusions of the Senator from the Hild toward Mr. Bunt. That gentlemen had been a most faithful officer, and was considered by all as one of the most valuable members of the commission while he sated. This fact was always acknowledged by his Democratic collegues.

Mr. WHITNEY then read the vote by which the cummendation of Mr. Blunt's services was expunge TEAS- Messra. Carrigan, Dunlap, Kelley, and Purdy NaYS- Messra. Verplanck, Mayor Wood, and Whittana.

The resolution was then laid en the table.
The resolution relative to the Lemmon slave case as next called up, and
Mr. BISHOP took the floor in advocacy of its

ASSEMBLY.

Mr. MAGUIRE brought in a bill to amend the act relative to Jurors in New York.

THE U.S SENATORSHIP.

The revolution of Mr. PETTY was announced as

The recolution of Mr. PETTY was announced as the special order of the day, and Mr. RICKERSON having the floor at the adjournment yesterday, resumed his remarks, saying with regard to the foreign vote, he knew it had become potent in politics—that it had been, is fact, the balance of power. But he was satisfied to which party it had attached itself. The specious name of Domerracy had attracted it. Much had been said about oaths. had attracted it. Much had been said about oaths. In his epinion, the mement the constitutional oath of members had been subscribed to here, all other caths were banished. There was a talismanic power in the constitutional oath, which cast off all other respected his official oath so highly as to throw saids all partian oaths. Mr. R. said he once leaved toward Silver-Grayism, so called, but when he came to see the position that section was taking with regard to the great question of Slavery, he abandoned it, and took his piace with Connecticut Massachusetts, and the whole North. He believed that W. H. Seward was the only true man to whom the State of Newsentation of its sentiments in the National Counsel. He did not desire the return of Mr. Seward because he was a Whig, but because he had been tried and sentation of its sentiments in the National Counsel. He did not desire the return of Mr. Seward because he was a Whig, but because he had been tried and found true to the cause of freedom. This was the reason be was willing to vote for him. If Mr. Se ward occupied a contrary position on this question, and a Democrat was presented here occupying the ground Mr. Seward occupies, he (Mr. R.) would vote for him without hesitation—so great and so momentous did he consider this question of freedom, and the necessity for a true representative. Mr. R. then, in reference to the humanity of Mr. Seward cited his interest in the case of the colored man, Wm Freeman, and the Virginia case. The conduct of Mr. S., in these cases, stood out boldly, and proclaimed loudly his great humanity. Mr. R also denied, so far as he was himself concerned, that there was any bargain and sale with regard to the two questions of the Senatorabip and the Maine Law. And he did not believe that there was any arrangement of the kind between any other nembers. If there was, the members engaged in it should be expelled from the House. It was not only perjury, but it was treason. It had been stated, too, that influences had been brought to bear. No approaches had been made of the kind to him, and he believed if there had been to any one clae, they would have been hurled back with scorn. But there had been influences brought to bear upon members to vote against Wm. H. Seward. He himself had recived instructions. Seven the reganization which instructed him.

Mr. WYGANT: Were you not read out—expelled!

withdraw himself from the organization structed him.

Mr. WYGANT: Were you not read out—expelled?

Mr. RICKERSON: I withcraw. (Hisses among members and in the lobbies)

The CHAIR: I trust that no such demonstrations will be indulged in by members of the House. It is unusual to treat members addressing the House in such a manner. And if by persons in the lobbies, the Chair would deem it his duty to order them cleared.

Mr. RICKERSON proceeded, saying that he joined the organization without knowing its principles, and as soon as he learned them, finding them contrary to his own he withdraw.

sown he withdrow.

Mr. LEIGH rose to a question of privilege, and rend some letters from American Associations direct-ing "Brother C. C. Leigh" to vote against Wm. H. Seward for U. S. Senster. Mr. RHODES asked if the signatures were attes-

ted.

Mr. LEIGH said they were attested, referring to
the seals they contained, which seals were a diagrace
to the sames of "Hancock" the "American Flag"
&cc., which names they bore.
Mr. PEITY rose to a point of order. This was no
question of privilege. This Legislature instructed its
representatives, and so do the constituents of menhers here.

ers here.
Mr. LEIGH proceeded, claiming that he was not Mr. LEIGH proceeded, claiming that he was not here to represent men meeting in secret conclaves, at midnight, to dictate to members of this House. He was the Independent representative of \$5,000 freemen here, and not these secret men, whom he would not call Americans, but rather traitors. Mr. L. admitted he had done a dishonorable act in joining this order, and the only way he knew of getting rid of the dishonor was by declaring absolution from it. Mr. L. proposed to road his reply to the instructions he had received.

ed RHODES objected. BOYNTON moved that consent be given by

the House.

Mr. MAGUIRE hoped Mr. L. would be allowed to read his reply, for, said Mr. M., the work goes bravely OB.

The motion of Mr. BOYNTON was carried, and
Mr. L. read his reply, which stated that he had mistaken their principles, and therefore would withdraw
teem the results.

from the order.

Mr. PETTY inquired of the gentleman why he had not withdrawn before election, as other members had.

not withdrawn before election, as other members had.

Mr. GATES followed, raying that this debate had taken a wide range, and then proceeded to discuss the namer of administering the naturalization isws, in which he saw great abuses, and much which needed reform. He had not been carried away with the prevailing Americanism or Know-Nothingism. He branded as untrue the assertions that there was an intention to interiere with religious creads. With regard to our Representative in the U. S. Senate, he wanted a man there who was entirely American in sentiment. And the man must occupy a position, with regard to Stavery, entirely similar to that occupied by Mr. Seward. But while he approved Mr. Seward's views on the Stavery question, and had nothing against his opinions on the School questions, and admired his enlarged philanthropy, yet he did not represent his (Mr. G's) views on one other very important question, and that was with regard to the naturalization of foreigners. He believed Mr. Seward to be an honest man, and acceptable in every respect, except the one he had stated. Were he right on that point, no other man on God's earth would sconer obtain his vote.

Mr. MAY rose and stated that he had been sent here as an independent Whig, and he intended to except the one he had, however, just received a letter from an order in a town in his district, directing him to vote against Wm. H. Seward. The letter said the order controlled the vote of the town. He would say that this order seeks to dictate to him. Mr. M. said he would suffer no distation from the source whence emanated this—nor from any other. He was an independent Seward Whig, and as such would vote for the return of Mr. Seward to the United States Senate.

Mr. BAKER took the floor, and after pointing out the Jesuitism of the order of Know-Nothinge, produced what he called the oath of the order, saying, if any member here knew it to be a forgery, and would rise in his place and pronounce it such, he would yield the point. Mr. B. read the oath, interspersing Mr. GATES followed, raying that this debate had

the promotion of themselves.

Mr. WATERBURY inquired if that was the oath
of the Seward Know Nothings?

Mr. BAKER-I believe it is the oath of the Hindoo

Know Nothings.

Mr. WATERBURY-I only wanted to know which

it was.

Mr. BAKER proceeded with his criticism of the oath, characterizing the order as a detestable band of traitors. He called upon these men to name their Mr. LAMPORT-Mr. Speaker, I will name my

Mr. LAMPORT—Mr. Speaker, I will have my candidate.

The CHAIR—The gentleman is not in order.

Mr. BAKER—I had not the slightest idea of referring to the gentleman from Ontario, Mr. Lamport.

The gentleman magnifies himself with proportions I had not thought of. [Laughter.] I can only compare him to the man who wanted to say four big words.

"The Mammoth Cave! General Jackson! Danie!

"Ullmann! Fire and Thunder!" [Renewed Isughter.]

Mr. B. went on with his criticism of the principles of the order. He asked if there had not been a faceting of the Council in New York City, about election

time, at which a resolution was passed giving the power to construe the oaths to the higher officer. It was this high-handed act which drew do we upon the order throughout the State an overwhelming con-

Mr. BICKERSON here rose to a question of privi lege, and read a letter from a council of which he (Mr. R.) had been a member, and from which he has acked a care of withdrawal. The letter states that he seked a care of withdrawal. The letter states that he would not be allowed to withdraw, but that he would be expelled; and besides that he would be burst in sfligy. It also sa'd it was intimated that he (Mr. R.) had been bought with money. Mr. R. said it was not recessary for him to deny anything in this letter. A man who would write such a letter to acother, Mr. R. thought was unworthy so much attention. But R. thought was unworthy so much attention. But R. thought was unworthy so much attention. But would here say that he would discharge his duty without regard to any consideration, pecuniary or otherwise.

Mr. LEIGH moved that this question be made the special order for Monday morning.

Mr. AITKEN moved to substitute the Temperance

bill, but withdrew, and
Mr. LEIGH'S motion was carried.
The House was then adjourned before Mr. BAKER

THE PROPOSED PACIFIC TELEGRAPH.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Feb. 2, 1855. In despite of the absurd opposition of Col. Benton and others to the establishment of telegraph to the Pacific, the bill, you will perceive, has passed the House in the simplest form. The projectors, Meesre. Alden and Eddy, of Maine, originally asked for a grant of two millions of acrein aid of their enterprise, and offered, as a consideration, to give the Government the prior use of the line at all times, and to transmit their mes sages gratuitously to the extent of eight thousand words per annum. Suspecting everything as a swindle that comes before Congress in the way of application for land grants-as it is not to be wondered at they do-many members hesits ed, and the bill dragged. As Mesers. Eddy and Alden did not propose to corrupt anybody, nor cheat nor pay anybody for votes or services, but simply offered what they deemed a fair equivalent for the grant they asked, they were ready to withdraw their application for the grant of land, accompanying it, at the same time, with a withdrawal to furnish the Government any gratuitous, or preferred service, thus allowing it to stand on a footing with all other parties in the transmission of messages. On this basis, asking merely for the right of way, and the protection of law over their enterprise, and no monopoly, the application of Messrs. Eddy and Alden has been granted. It would seem that no imaginary objection to such a proposition could be found. Yet about seventy gentlemen, headed by Col. Benton, were found to oppose and vote against this great and important enterprise. It is of vast consequence, not only to the United States, but to the whole world that this line should be built, and it is to be fervently desired that the applicants may be enabled to find the means of constructing it. It strikes us as more likely that the telegraph wires, which are to encircle the world, are to cross at Behring's Straits, than to be laid scross the Atlantic. In this view Mesers. Eddy and Alden's enterprise becomes of increased consequence, and inspires livelier hopes for its speedy realization. J. S. P.

FISH AND FISHING No. I.

In ordinary acceptation and appreciation, Fish and Fishing are a subject about which little or nothing can be said that is interesting, amusing or instructive yet the World's History, in a good degree, has been fashioned, and especially has this New World of ours, been revolutionized and molded thereby.

Fish and Fishing have occupied the eager and ear

nest consideration of individuals and nations, if not from the "beginning," surely from a period so remote, that human records and the traditions of men run not to the centrary. The immediate descendants of our first parents, # would seem, led a pastoral and agricultural life, but we have Scriptural evidence that the "patriarchs of old" were familiar with Fishing. That passage in the Old Testament, wherein the power of Omnipotence is magnified by reference to a sea-moneter, has an obvious fishing significance.
"Canst thou draw out leviathan with a book, or his topque with a cord which thou lettest down ! an interrogatory, pointless and meaningless, without giving it a fishing interpretation and application.

That a majority, at least, of the Apostles we fishermen, we have positive proof in St. John's Gos pel, where it is recorded that seven of them were at the Sea of Tiberius, and Simon Peter said unto them, I go a fishing; and they say unto him, we also go

with thee. Fish and fishing were intimately associated with habits and customs of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans: and commerce—the winged messenger of civilization and christianization-is the legitimate fruit of fishing.

Plutrarch tells us, that while Mark Author wooing the voluptuous Cleopatra, she gave him a fishing-party, and thus describes the trick she played

Did hang a salt fish on his hook, which he With fervency pulled up.

And then the fishing party did laugh at Anthony, and the winsome Cleopatra, to his anger spothe, this addressed him: "Go, Anthony, leave fishing to as petty Princes-your game is cities, kingdoms and previnces. The Phonicians called a fish Sidon, and that most

ancient of maritime cities-Siden-derived its name and importance from the abundance of fishes in the waters around it; and Tyre, which in Scripture called the daughter of Sidon, and which was the great commercial mart & the ancient world, derived its principal source of wealth from her fisheries. The Tyrean dye," extracted from her shell-fish, was more valued than gold, and the garments colored with this precious dye were only worn by those of imperial dignity, and were conferred as the highest oner upon emperors, consuls and warriors. The fugitives from the oppressions of Attila fled to the Isles of the Adriatie, and became fishermen; and follow ing this employment exclusively, Venice became renewned for her wealth, commerce, and naval strength. Genoa became rich and powerful by fishing; and Amsterdam, from a village of herringcatchers, cabins, and curing sheds, rose by the fame of her pickled herring, and the immense consump-tion thereof, to unexampled affluence and grandeur, and the rayings were current and true, that Ameter-

dam is founded on herring bones, and Dutchmen's bodies are built of pickled herrings. The Romans were estravagantly fond of fish and fishing, and expended vast sums in the construction of their fish-ponds. At some of their feasts, we are told, a thousand of the choicest fishes were set upon the tables, and at the supper given to Vitellius by his brother, more than two two thousand were provided for the guests. It was customary, at one time, to carry the delphin alive to their eating rooms, that they might glut their eyes with the changes of its when dying. They became the most sensual and luxurious people who have ever lived, and their germandizing habits may be inferred from the recorded fact that Julius Casar took an emetic before supping with Cicero, that he might make a more enor. is meal. Their immense fish-ponds and reservoirs, it is said, sold for from ten to one hundred thous ad dollars. The artificial lake, at Agrigentum, was not zig a mile in circumference and thirty feet deep, dug ou of solid rock by the Carthagenian captives, and to which water was conveyed from the hills-fishes for the public feasts were kept therein. Meris, who nived three thousand years ago, built a fish-poral re-miles long and four hundred feet deep, and

twenty-two different kinds of fish therein. The revenue derived from fishing in this espacious fish pond, according to this "fich-story," was given to his wife for pin-money, and from it she realized ten thousand dollars a day

In the year of our Lord 1000, there was but one quay or wharf in London, and that was at Billings gare, the famous fish-market, and the wharfage or oil was half-seeiny for every bost-load of fish; and the first cock built in London was for the Greenland fishers.

Liverpool, the present mart of American Commerce, was, at first, a poor fishing village, and Glasgow is indebted for its importance to a merchant by the name of Elphinstone, who acquired great wealth in fishing, and inspired others to engage therein.

Fish was the principal article of food in England a long time ago. We have the bill of fare at the feast given on the marriage of Henry the IVth, in 1403, prequet consisted of six courses—three of flesh and fowl, and three of fish—the first course being salty fishe and rostyd samour. And the entries in the house be book of the great Earl of Northumberland, of early simes, dissipate our notions about the roast beef of Old England. The retainers and servants of this splendid establishment, lived on fisk, with a little salt beef and mutton without vegetables, three-fourths of the year, and the usual breakfast of my Lord and consisted of a quart of beer, as much wine, two pieces of salt fish, six red herring, four white ones,

and a dish of sprats.

But the object of these piscatorial gleanings is not so much to show what fish and fishing had to do with olden time, as to show, historically, that it was fish and fishing that consed the exploration and coloniza-tion of the North American Continent; that it was fish and fishing that extended the French possessions in the New World, until France c'aimed much the larger portien thereof, and that she was finally disposeesed f every foot thereof, by reason of her grasping and monopolizing efforts to control the American fish-erice; that it was the fish and fishing disputes and ollisions, rivalries and duties, that alienated the Colonies from the mother country, and caused the Revolution; and that it is to the New-England fishing sailors and fishing soldiers we are most in debted for our independent nationality.

We know that between the years of our Lord 999 and 1010, Leif and Thorwald, sons of Ensk the Red, a Norwegian navigator, made voyages into the unemplored Western Ocean, and discovered inlands, bays, promentories and main-lands, before unkno en that they found corn growing wild on the low lands, vines on the hills, and the rivers, lakes and bays teeming with salmons and other fish; and gave to the newly-discovered country the name of Win land dat gode—the good Vinland. We know that these discoveries were published to the Christianized world in 1075, by Adam, a canon of Bremen, in his ecclesisstical history; and that although may never have been permanently colonized by the NORTHMEN, still it continued to be visited by the Icelandie voyagers as late as 1347.

The historic chain, however, connecting the discovries of the Northmen, and of Columbus, Cabot and others, is wanting a few links to make it continuous and unbroken. Yet we know that the Vinland of the Northmen is that portion of the American continent now designated as New-England, and that the firs English coloniets in New-England found vines grow ing on the hills, corn on the low lands, and the rivers. lakes and baysteeming with fish just as the Northmen did many centuries before them. Admitting, then, although there is traditionary evidence to the con trary, that Columbus undertook his first voyage of discovery, to test the truth of his geographical theories and speculations, and without previous knowledge of the discoveries of the Northmen, still it is historically true that the result of the great navigator's voyages was the awakening of an active and adventurous spirit in search of gold—the talismanic incentive to pillage and conquest—while the discoveries of Cabot caused a fishing excitement, as intense and pervading as the golden mania in our own time, by the discovery the suriferous deposits in California and Aus tralia, ending, however, in exploration and permanent colonization, and the establishment

the civil and religious privileges we now enjoy. And be it remembered, that at the time of the dis-coveries of Columbus, Cabot, and others upon this Continent, all Europe, including England, was Catholic, and that the consumption of fish was enor-mous. During the fast-days of the Church, the pickled herrings of Holland were the principal food, and fishes were more eagerly sought after than all things else, and the discovery of new fishing-grounds

was the rival pursuit of nations.

It was at this time of fishing excitement, when the individuals and nations of Europe were mainly intent on the acquisition of fish and the discovery of new fishing-grounds, that Sebastian Cabot, the Venetian merchant, sailed from the port of Bristol, in England, on his voyage of discovery and exploration to the New World. Having explored the coast from Labrador to Carolina, he returned to Europe, and published an account of his voyage-and what most nterested ard excited publis attention! Not that he had visited a goodly land, having noble forests, a rich nd sevial clime, but that he had found the bays, lakes, and rivers thereof teeming with fish; that there were great seals, and those which are commonly called salmons-soles, a yard in length, and a great abundance of that kind of fish which the sav-

ges call baccolos, or cod-fish. These fish stories were promulgated by Cabot and his companions, throughout Europe, and created a flahing excitement, so intense and universal, that persons of the highest rank, and no wise connected with commercial pursuits, became share-holders in fishing edventures to the new fishing-grounds. England, France, Spain and Portugal, nationally and individually, commenced an eager rivalry in the business of fishing, and contended arduously for the monopoly of fishing in the American seas.

The French were the first cod fishers in the American waters, after the return of Cabot-they made fishing voyages to Newfoundland as early as 1504, and probably earlier, for a few years later there were fifty ships of different nations employed in those fish-cries, and some forty or fifty houses had been built for the accommodation of the fishermen. In 1971, the number of vessels employed in fishing, in American waters, was 375-the ships of France and Spain were at that time more numerous than those of England; but a few years later, England employed 200 ships annually, and 10,000 men and boys as catchers and

The French originally designed the planting of but a single colony near their fishing-banks; but the exceeding productiveness of the fisheries induced the colonization of Canada Nova Scotia, and Cape Breen. So it is historically true, that France was ditended American possessions-possessions so extended in 1754, as to comprise much the larger portion of this continent. And it is also historically true, that ten cars later, France had not a single foot of land it North America-lost in the wars, growing out of the disputes, rivelries and conflicts about the fishing and sabing-banks in the American waters.

The ships of England, engaged va the American fisheries, annually increased in number, and the bu-riness was prosecuted with additional vigor, but no swempt at colonization was made till 1583. In the year, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, under the first royal year, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Under the first royal charter for English colonize too, accompanied by smiths, shipwrights, masons and Carpeniers, arrived at Newtoundland and took possession thereof with great pump and ceremony; but this enterprise terminated disastronsly, and Sir Famphrey and his crew, in returning to England, were lost

Notwithstanding this disa group and abortive at-tempt at colonization, the English fisheries continued to increase in prosperity, and importance—so much so, that in 1793, Sir Walter Raicigh declared, in the

Mouse of Commons, that they were the stay and sup-port of the West Counties of England; and, to caoccurage and increase the fishing business, Parlis ment, as early as 1518 imposed some penalties on persons eating fiesh on fish days; and in 1563; it was rovided by Parliamentary ensetment, "that, as well for the maintenance of shipping, the increase of sale ermen and marines, and the repairing the port-to see, as for the sparing the fresh victuals of the realm, it shall not be lawful for any one to eat fissh on Wed needays and Saturdays, unless under the forfe ture of £3 for each offense, excepting in cases of sinkness

and those of special license to be obtained," which license peers paid about \$6. Knights and their wives, \$3 each, and others \$1 50; but neither peer nor commoner could cat beef on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Indeed, by the English statute book. there were one hundred and fifty-three days in the year on which British subjects were required to abtain from flesh, and to eat Ash

Thus it is remarkable, but historically true, that England, Spain, France and Portugal cent their fish ing resocle regularly and in large numbers to the American Seas, for fish-that France made explorations and settlements appurtenant to her fisheries, and the British Parliament passed penni statutes to encourage fishing and increase the number of fisher-men, nearly a century before a single English colony was founded upon the Centineut of North America And this was the result of the discovery made by Cabot is 1490, that there were great seels and sal-mone-color a yard in length; and great abandance of cod-fish in the American waters.

THEATRICAL.

The week just passed was not marked by anything novel in the dramatic line. There were some re-vivale, fairly done, and tolerably specessful. This week we observe there are some new things prom

At the BROADWAY, the fine spectacle and opera of Cinderella " has kept the house decreely full, and promises to do so for a month, unless sconer with-drawn. It will be repeated every night this week. The actors have greatly improved the chorus is efficient, and but one thing detracts from the otherwise highly comeandable performance—and that is the chronic duliness of Mr. Harrison, especially in speaking parts. If he would manage to show some vivacity, some life, some attempt at least to suit the action to the word, he would meserially improve the piece, and add infinitely to the delight of the audience. It is really provoking, in a passage where a quick, nervous action, and a face lighted up with pleasant surprise, are the proper adjuncts of the ext, to see him stand quiet and speak in a deliberate, measured monotone, as utterly out of place as the stillest silence itself. We opine that Mr. H. is not so great as a singer that he can afford to dispense with the humbler duties of the actor; and for his own sake, as well as for the sake of the audience, we suggest the amendment.

AT WALLACK'S, Morton's Comedy of "Town and "Country" has been played all the week, and will be repeated to-night. It has been very well done especially "Kit Cosey" by Mr. Blake. Critic," an intolerable "gag piece," has been done also. It is hugely amusing at times, but on the whelerather heavy. This, also, is on for to-night. On Tuesday night, Mr. Blake is to have a benefit, when Mrs. Mowatt's Comedy of "Fashion" will be given with a strong cast, including Blake, Lester, Brougham, Dyott, Vincent, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Stephens, &c. As an afterpiece, Mr. Blake gives his remarkable "Geoffrey Dale" in "The Las: Man," his

most effective character.

At Burron's, the comedy of "Fashion" is to be played to-night-Mesers. Burton, Fisher, Johnston, Jordan, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Hough, and others, assisting. In the after piece, Jars," Mr. Burton appears. On Tuesday night an original comedy, by an American author, will be played. It is called "The Player's Plot; or the Manager and the "Minister." Burton is in the piece, with his entire force.

At the NATIONAL, the principal pieces of the past week were: "The Flying Islanders," "The Savage "and the Maiden," and "The Limerick Boy." On Friday night, Miss Barber's benefit drew a very large ancience. To night, "Ireland as it Is," "Beauty Mrs. Yeomans will have a benefit on Friday, when Mr. Arnold, of the Bowery, and Mrs. Y. will play "The Lady of Lyons."

At the Bowsey, the last week, Mr. and Miss Charles, Yankee and Irish delineators, have had abundant success as to attendance and applause. They continue; the pieces to night, being "Ireland and America," "The Iriah Know-Nothing," "Our Gal," and "Pacoy Miles's Boy." Mrs. Dunn will appeal for a benefit on Wednesday night, and Mr. Freleigh on Friday night.

At the METROPOLITAN, we have Sands & Co.'s Circuis for another week. The Circus, with its wonderful tricks its highly trained horses, comical clowns its jests, (often reprehensibly coarse) its sawdust an tinsel, may answer very well in its place, but to put it into such a magnificent home as the Metropolitan is a little too bad. The one-horse policy of the managers taking in of an entire Circus has, we fear, done for it completely. It is an arrangement not set down in the "eternal fitness of things."

At Barsun's will be given, on Monday and Taes lay ofternoons, the drama of "Ambrose Gwinnet" evenings, "The Corsioan Brothers" and "Hackeyed Susan." On the other afternoons and evenings of the week, comedies, farces, singing, and dancing in great variety. We observe that two particular afternoons in each week here have, by custom and apparent consent, been in a manner set apart by the visitors themselves for the accommodation of ladies of nadoubted reputation, and men who follow trades set down in the Revised Statutes under the head of Felonies. We do not know that it is possible for the management to exclude these customers, probably not; but such of the public as do not choose to mix in this interesting crowd, will find the Maseum much more comfortable at any other time than on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

For novelties in NEGRO MINSTRELST, the reader is referred to our advertising columns. We hear of great houses and plenty of success.

DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION.

TWO LARGE STORES DESTROYED. Just before 2 o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in No. 140 Fulton st., adjoining the "Sun Buildings," and in a very brief period Nos. 140 and 138 were nearly destroyed.

The fire originated in No. 140, occupied in the basement by E. F. Cuidort, importer of French wines; on the first floor by R. L. and J. Tilton, wholesale and retail clothiers; [in the upper stories by T. M. Fairchild & Co., book publishers; George W. Hatch, I thographer; Wynkoop & Co., printers; Shipman & Co., bookbirders; R. T. Young, book and stationery dealer, and H. N. Keeny, printer.

The fire began in the third story, but from what cause is unknown. It seen spread through that floor, a great distance, the store being very deep. By the re the alarm was fully heard, the flames were bursting from the front windows, and soon after the whole of the upper stories were also in flames.

When the fire burst from the front windows the wind swept it into the windows of

No. 142, occupied by Sutton, printer; Hunt's Merchant's Magazine; E. DeGroot, Empire Clothing Store; E. McWood, bookbinder; S. G. Steele, engraver, and W. H. Heath, engraver. This building, though badly scorched and in great

danger, was not on fire inside when our reporter left. From No. 140 the flames communicated to the fourstory brick store No. 138, the second, third and fourth storice of which were occupied by Price & Sons, labe

puneracturers; the store on the first floor being

occupied.

There were several persons on the upper floors, and as seen as Capt. Ditchett of the Fourth Ward learned the fact he requested the firemen at work on the first floor to quiet the place. They did so, and in a mement afterward there was a crash, some of the present coming down and comments. coming down, and carrying the whole of the

or wih them. Nearly the entire stock of Degroot & Co., was re

moved in safety by the firemen and police. Nos. 138 and 140 were entirely destroyed, with all the property in the upper stories, and some of that in At so late an hour we could get very little informs

tion as to losees, and nothing of insurance. The buildings were worth, perhaps, from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each; the stock destroyed possibly as mack more, though of course this is more guess work. The Sue Building was for a time in great danger,

but was deemed safe when our report clo FIRE IN MARGIN AND STANTON-STS.

Yesterday aftern on a fire broke out in the frame etable, corner of Mangin and Stanton-sts., but the flames were speedily subdued and before much dam age occurred.

PIRE IN SLEVENTH-STREET.

The same afternoon a fire occurred in a dwelling-source in Eleventh st., near Third-av., from a defect in one of the flues used for heating the building. The premises sustained little or no damage, as the flames ere discovered at an early moment, and soon on tinguished.

Yesterday afternoon the City Hull and other belle rang an alarm for the VIIIth District. The fremen. with their engines and hose carriages, were of course of the alert, and soon brought up in front of the premises No. 59 Reade st , occupied as a jewelry manufactory. Lines of hose were hastily stretched along the street and into an alley-way, to a house in the rear of No 98, from which as uncertain quantity of sme pouring. The ecceptant of the house made his apwater into the building, so it was not on fire, and he wa not insured; but the "lade" not seeming to appreciate the joke of turning out for fau, sung cut for water—and the water came, knocking over the Dutch occupant, and setting his furniture floating

firemen took up and went home. The alarm west firemen took up and went home. The smoke made its way into the street. The alarm of fire in the HIId District last evening

about. The order then came to "take up," and

proved to be false.

A SLAVE-MARKET.

The Rev. Granville Moody, in a letter to The Western Advocate, gives the following interes description of a visit to a southern slave-market:

Western Advocate, gives the following interesting Cescription of a visit to a southern slave-market:

"At Memphis, Tennessee, we got fairly isto the cotton region, and from the landing of the beautiful, city we took on board over 600 bales of cotton. Here slaves and mules—so universally associated in the South—were found in abundance and variety. On the bank, above the landing, we saw a large three-story brick heuse, of ample dimensions, and strong and gloomy mein; but the reason thereof was obvious enough, when we read, in large and commanding characters. 'Bolton & Co., Slave-Dealers.' While the cotton was going aboard, I took the opportunity to visit this mart of humanity. Mr. Bolton, the very gentlemanly proprietor, received me very kindly, and eave me many items of information relative to his business. I told him I did not want to purchase, but would look at his slaves, if he pleased. He showed me his stock on hand, exhibited their valuable points, and stated their prices. One young man, about 19 years old, of fine, firm form, for whom the trader asked \$250, spoke up and said, 'Master, I he de by you wants to buy, if you wants de work done.' I asked him where he had been raised. He replied, 'In old Virginny, Sir, and I can do all kinds of work on se farm, Sir. Pee de stock you ought to buy, Sir, if you want to get your money back.' Poor fellow, he had learned his lesson well, and acted well his part.

"After showing me several women, for whom he

his part.

"After showing me several women, for whom he his part.

"After showing me several women, for whom he asked from \$850 to \$950, he told some of the alaves to go and call Martha. Immediately, a young, tall, graceful, and really beautiful mulatto woman, and nearly white, appeared in tidy and becoming appared. He stated, in business style, her many excellent qualities, age, etc., and remarked, 'I ask \$1,150 for her. Ard there she stood, in form aimost as faultless as the Greek Slave of Powers, yet animated by a soul within worth more than a thousand worlds, and for the ransom of which 'Heaven paid down the price, 'all price beyond, while angels, though curious to 'compute, still fail to cast the mighty sum,' which bought that soul immortal into the redeeming hand of God's eternal Son. But there she stood, soanning me with an inqiring look that seemed desirous to anticipate her (atc.—\$1,150 paid down, and she is the property of any one who choise such investment. Mr. Bolton said that most of his stack was hired out, and that his assortment was incomplete—having only about twesty then on hand—but that he expected a gang every day to arrive from Virginia, where his partner was engaged in purchasing slaves for the Southern market."

Touching.—The Tobacco Plant, (Va.,) describes

Touching .- The Tobacco Plant, (Va.,) describes the death of a girl in Clarksville, by burning. Her cothes took fire while she slept in a chair. Aroused,

she ran toward her master's bed. The editor says:
"Mr. Watkins forced her out of the door, and
threw her in a mud-puddle, supposing that he would
thus be enabled to extinguish the flames, but failed
to do so. Her burns, as before stated, are very bed,
and but little hope is entertained of her recovery. She
was one of the invelticat girls we ever save, and would
have sold for \$1,000 on the block."

LOOK GET FOR SLAVE CATCHERS!—We were credibly informed late last night that certain parties from Baltimore, Md. are in the city, who are evidently here with the intention of SEIZING FUSITIVE SLAVES!

Be on your guard! [Pittsburg Gazette, Fob. 2.

Be on your guard! [Pittsburg Gazette, Fob. 2.]

IMPORTANT LAWSHIT AMONG SHOWMEN—BARNUE vs. Spailing.—We understand that Barnum has commenced suit against Dr. Spaiding for several thousand dollars damage, in consequence of the death of a Siraffe on board the "Floating Palace" at New-Oleans sometime since. Spaiding, it seems, had bired the animal, with the privilege of baying; but in transferring it to the "Palace," notwithstanding every precution was used to guard against all accidents or belry, he was accidentally drowned. Barnum claims the accident occurred in consequence of the negligence of Spaiding, and claims almayes for the value, about \$10,000. On the other hand, Spaiding claims that every possible precaution and Giligence were used, and as the animal was under the charge of a keeper appointed by Barnum, if there was any cardenness or negligence, it was through the careleseness of such keeper that the death of the animal occurred, and that Barnum is liable for the damage and loss, extituated at \$20,000, suffered by Spaiding. Both parties have the reputation of being rather shrewd in their way, and as both are well atte to pay the lawyers, we here they will both obtain justice, and get the worth of the money they pay them.

DEATH OF A VETERAN SHIP-BUILDER.—The Newbergport Herald reports the death of Orlando B. Merill Esq., of that city, at the alvanced age of 92 years. The deceased was probably one of the oldest ship-buildert in the country. He built the United States ship "Pickering" in 1789, and the United States shop "Pickering" in 1789, and the United States shop "Pickering" in 1789, and the United States shop "Wasp" in 1813. He appeared quite vigorous and well at the celebration in Newburypert on the Fourth of July last, and his presence, aurrounded as he was by a number of other veteran ship carpenters, gave a pleasant feature to the services on that occasion. Mr. Merrill has always been a useful and honored citizen of Newburyport.

TEMPERANCE IN RHODE ISLAND.—The Rhode Island State Temperance Society held its annual mesting in Providence on the 31st uit. The Hon. A. C. Barstow was reclected President. The Treasurer's Report showed a balance on hand of \$124 20. The Report showed a balance on hand of \$124 20. The expenditures of the year were \$1,422 42. Resolutions were passed congratulating the friends of the cause on its present condition and prospects, and urging on its present condition and prospects, and urging on its present condition and prospects, and urging further action both in the enforcement of the present probibitory law and the enactment of more stringent provisions.

The Puisski (Oswego Co.) Democrat says that the Rev. Jensek Hudon, a member of the Methodist Con-

prohibitory law and the provisions.

The Puisski (Oswego Co.) Democrat says that the Rev. Jemes Hudson, a member of the Methodist Conference, and stationed at Holmesville, in that County, es their preacher, left there some time in Movember last with his wife, and it was said on a visit to her friends in Madison County. Since he left, it was discovered that a girl about seventeen years of age, and a member of his Church, who had been living at his bouse for some time previous, was encleate, and on inquiry being made by the proper authority as to he facts, she admitted it to be the case, and swore it in the Rev. gentleman; but he is emong the missing.